

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PONTA DELGADA 0378

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: POLITICAL SITUATION IN PONTA DELGADA

REF: PONTA DELGADA 0368

1. NIGHT OF SEPTEMBER 22 SEVERAL HUNDREDS YOUTHS DEMONSTRATED IN FRONT OF OFFICES OF PONTA DELGADA DAILY "CORREIO DOS ACCORES" PROTESTING JUNTA REGIONAL'S PROHIBITION OF PUBLICATION OF INTERVIEW WITH FLA REPRESENTATIVE. DEMONSTRATORS MOVED ON TO LOCAL THEATER WHERE GENERAL MAGALYAES AND TWO JUNTA MEMBERS WERE SCHEDULED TO APPEAR IN AN AWARDS CEREMONY.

CROWD DEMANDED GNERAL PERMIT PUBLICATION OF FLA INTERVIEW AND CALLED HIM A LIAR. AFTER CONSIDERABLE INTERCHANGE WITH DEMONSTRATORS, GENERAL DECIDED ON BHALF OF JUNTA TO PERMIT PUBLICATION OF INTERVIEW ALONG WITH JUNTA'S EXPLANATION WHY IT WAS PROHIBITED. MOST HERE CREDIT FLA WITH ORGANIZING THE DEMONSTRATION.

2. NEXT DAY GENERAL MAGALHAES WITH TEARS IN HIS EYES TOLD JUNTA MEMBERS HE WOULD RESIGN BECAUSE HE HAD COMPROMISED THEIR POSITION BY TAKING IT ON HIMSELF TO CHANGE THEIR DECISION.

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JUNTA MEMBERS SPENT ALL DAY SUCCESSFULLY PERSUADING GENERAL TO

REMAIN.

3. CORREIO DOS ACORES PRINTED STATEMENT SIGNED BY SOCIALIST JUNTA MEMBER IN CHARGE OF SOCIAL COMMUNICATION, GOULART, EXPLAINING JUNTA'S POSITION ON FLA INTERVIEW, BUT NEWSPAPERS'S EMPLOYEES DECIDED NOT TO PUBLISH INTERVIEW. PPD AND OTHERS HAVE ATTACKED GOULART ACCUSSING HIM OF PRESS CENSORSHIP EVEN THOUGH GOULART WAS ABSENT WHEN JUNTA DECIDED AGAINST PUBLICATION. SUBSEQUENTLY CLEANING LADY DUMPED CONTENTS OF GOULART'S TRASH BASKET IN THE STREET.

4. UNFRIENDLY MOB INSULTED AND ACCORDING TOONE STORY HIT PS DEPUTY, JAIME GAMA, AT PONTA DELGADA AIRPORT WHEN HE LEFT FOR LISBON. THERE HAVE BEEN RUMORS PS HEADQUARTERS WOULD BE ATTACKED BUT NONE HAS OCCURRED. LOCAL PS LEADER SAID PARTY WORKERS HAVE BEEN RECEIVING THREATENING PHONE CALLS AND CAR TIRES OF ONE PARTY MEMBER WERE SLASHED. PS LEADER BELIEVES PARTY BEING HARRASSED BY FLA BECAUSE IT OPPOSES INDEPENDENCE. PARTY IS UPSET BECAUSE LOCAL AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT BEEN FIRM ENOUGH IN DEALING WITH ANTI-SOCIALIST ACTIVITIES AND RECENT FLA DEMONSTRATIONS. IT THINKS MILITARY OFFICERS HERE WHOSE SYMPATHY WITH SEPARATISTS PREVENTS THEM FROM TAKING FIRM MEASURES SHOULD BE REMOVED.

5. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE CONSERVATIVE FACTION OF PONTA DELGADA FLA BEHIND RECENT DEMONSTRATIONS AND AN ANTI-SOCIALIST CAMPAIGN. AUTHORITIES HERE CAN NOT TOLERATE SUCH ACTIVITIES MUCH LONGER, PARTICULARLY WHEN GENERAL MAGALHAES AND SOCIALIST PARTY ARE TARGETS. PFEIFLE

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